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## **Senator Allen says Excellence and Achievement Evident as Traverse City Area Public Schools Announces U.S. Department of Education Grant**

TRAVERSE CITY – State Senator Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, said the federal government has recognized the stellar performance of the Traverse City Area Public School (TCAPS) system. The district has been awarded a United States Department of Education arts education expansion grant totaling \$818,000.

The grant will be utilized over the next three years to expand arts education programs in two schools, Interlochen and Long Lake elementary schools.

“This is spectacular news for the Traverse City Area Public Schools,” Allen said. “This grant will allow the district to offer students a quality and well rounded education, of which the arts are an important part.

“Education is an issue of paramount importance and this grant only emphasizes that education, and the arts are indeed high priorities in northern Michigan,” Allen continued.

The TCAPS district is one of 35 recipients nationwide of the Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination Grant Program, and the only project in Michigan ever funded for the grant through the U.S. Department of Education.

Goals of the “Building Connections” grant project are to use the arts in education to improve literacy in reading and writing; social studies academic performance and enhance student achievement in core subject areas; and to strengthen art instruction at the elementary level and engage students in the arts.

The project will extend the district’s existing partnerships with Harvard University’s Project Zero and the Interlochen Center for the Performing Arts, as well as link it with educational connections in the region’s arts and cultural communities.

The grant will be announced by TCAPS Superintendent James Pavelka and Assistant Superintendent Jayne Mohr during a 9 a.m. press conference Friday, Oct. 10.